

Indicator <i>Recommended with Reservations</i>	Suicide Death Rate
<b>Justification</b>	The association between alcohol use and suicide has been well documented. Suicidal individuals have high rates of alcohol use and abuse and alcohol abusers have high rates of suicidal behavior. It is estimated that 20 percent of suicides are attributable to alcohol.
<b>Definition</b>	Number of deaths from suicide per 1,000 population. Suicide includes all means of self-inflicted injuries that result in death.
<b>Numerator</b>	Annual number of suicide deaths with ICD-9 codes E950-959 or ICD-10 codes X60-X84 and Y87.0 as underlying cause of death
<b>Denominator</b>	Total resident population for same calendar year
<b>Data Sources</b>	Death certificate data from the National Center for Health Statistics Mortality Detail Files (numerator) and population estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census (denominator)
<b>Frequency</b>	Annual
<b>Geographic Levels</b>	National, State, and County
<b>Demographic Categories</b>	Age by Gender by Race/Ethnicity
<b>Strengths</b>	Readily available for many years in all states
<b>Limitations</b>	This indicator does not involve a direct assessment of alcohol involvement, but rather is justified on the assumption that 20 percent of all suicides are attributable to alcohol. This attributable fraction (20%) could vary substantially across geographic areas and subgroups. The stability of this indicator is directly related to the size of the population in which these deaths occur. Therefore, this indicator may be unstable for less populated states and counties that have low numbers of annual suicides, especially when used for demographic subgroups.